

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1546

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements providing vitamins or minerals, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2005

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements providing vitamins or minerals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Food Stamp Vitamin
5 and Mineral Improvement Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the dietary patterns of Americans often do
2 not comply with the daily intakes of vitamins and
3 minerals the Food and Drug Administration rec-
4 ommends;

5 (2) children in low-income families and the el-
6 derly often fail to achieve adequate nutrient intakes;

7 (3) pregnant women have particularly high nu-
8 trient needs, which they often fail to meet;

9 (4)(A) scientific studies show that nutritional
10 supplements containing folic acid (a B vitamin) may
11 prevent as many as 60 to 80 percent of neural tube
12 birth defects;

13 (B) the Public Health Service, in September
14 1992, recommended that all women of childbearing
15 age who are capable of becoming pregnant consume
16 at least 0.4 milligrams of folic acid per day to re-
17 duce the risk of spina bifida and other neural tube
18 birth defects affecting the fetus; and

19 (C) the Food and Drug Administration has ap-
20 proved a health claim that folic acid reduces the risk
21 of neural tube birth defects;

22 (5) infants who do not receive adequate intakes
23 of iron may suffer from impaired mental and behav-
24 ioral development; and

1 (6) scientific evidence indicates that increased
2 intake of specific nutrients over an extended period
3 of time protects against diseases and conditions such
4 as osteoporosis, cataracts, cancer, and heart disease.

5 **SEC. 3. USE OF FOOD STAMPS TO PURCHASE VITAMINS**
6 **AND MINERALS.**

7 Section 3(g)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
8 U.S.C. 2012(g)(1)) is amended by striking “or food prod-
9 uct” and inserting “, food product, or nutritional supple-
10 ment providing a vitamin or mineral”.

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